

Endicott, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the West Endicott Fire District has been awarded a \$40,802 federal grant to purchase new fire safety equipment. The funds come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

"These federal funds will provide new safety equipment that will protect members of the West Endicott Fire District as they courageously work to protect the public. It will also pay for a saw used to extract people from serious car accidents," Hinchey said. "This federal grant also spares local taxpayers much of the cost associated with this much-needed equipment."

"The federal money will be used to replace existing fire safety equipment such as masks, coats, and boots. The funding will also be used to purchase a new K12 saw, which can be used to cut people out of cars when they have gotten into an accident."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, more than \$17.6 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

Hinchey is the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.